



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

Children and Domestic Violence Committee

August 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes

The DVCC Children and Domestic Violence Committee met on August 26, 2019 at the Division of Family Services Building in Newark, DE. In attendance were Secretary Manning (DSCYF) Natasha Smith (DVCC staff), Lisa Ritchie (Catholic Charities), Maureen Monagle (DVCC Staff), Mary Skaats (Probation and Parole), Maureen Faulkner (Probation and Parole), Trinette Redinger-Ramsey (DFS), Marcey Rezac (DCADV), Lauren Emhe (Child Inc.), Michelle Ostafy (Child Inc.), Lori Sitler (Child Inc.), Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV), Carmella Giddons-Jones (DPBHS), Rep. Kim Williams (General Assembly-House).

Call to Order: Secretary Manning called the meeting to order.

Introductions: Introductions were provided by those in attendance.

Minutes from April 29, 2019: Minutes were approved as written.

Old Business

Divorced and Separating Parents Curriculum

Carmella Giddons-Jones (DPBHS) stated that she will send out a meeting notice to those who expressed interest in participating in the Separating and Divorcing Parenting Education workgroup. Carmella shared that when the workgroup convenes, some of the agenda items will include what is the need, who are we missing and who is filing petitions and not completing the classes and who would provide online course if needed. In addition, the workgroup would be looking at what data was available from Family Court to determine the reason for custody and visitation dismissals. Carmella is also looking at agencies that are able to provide the divorced and separating parenting classes in Spanish.

Benchcard

Rachel Neff (Family Court) stated that more time is needed for Family Court to review any revisions to the benchcard document.

Guideline for Child Custody Evaluations

Secretary Manning (DSCYF) shared that there are only four Child Custody Evaluators in Delaware and that this issue may be better suited for another DVCC committee. Secretary Manning shared that she will bring this issue to the Council at the upcoming quarterly meeting.

New Business

Minors and Mental Health Services

Meredith Seitz (DSCYF) stated that teens 14 years or older can consent to outpatient mental health treatment. Marcey Rezac (DCADV) stated that domestic violence agencies may look for clarification around programming and therapy needs for teens as well as services that high school wellness centers are able to provide (with or without parental consent).

House Resolution 12

Rep. Williams shared information on House Resolution 12. HR 12 requests that the DVCC to study the expansion of domestic violence, teen dating violence and sexual violence advocacy and legal services to minors. In addition, the DVCC will provide a report of the recommendations to the General Assembly by May 31, 2020.

Natasha Smith (DVCC staff) will send invitations to those in the working group for HR 12. The working group will meet more frequently than the Children and Domestic Violence Committee. The working group will also provide updates to the DVCC Children and Domestic Violence committee.

Announcements

House Bill 74 (Take Care Delaware)

Secretary Manning shared that the Smyrna school district will be piloting Take Care Delaware based upon the “Handle with Care” model. A one page summary of Take Care Delaware were distributed to those present. In addition, information about the handle with care model can be found at <https://handlewithcaremd.org/docs/Handle%20With%20Care.mp4>